Preliminary Amendment PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The amendments to the existing claims and the newly added claims define a two-step process for producing some compounds of the type disclosed herein comprising monobenzylation of hydroquinone, followed by ortho-formylation. Such a process is described in the specification at pp. 21-25. Methyl esters are disclosed in the examples. While in those examples they are produced by a different process they clearly are contemplated as being a part of the inventive concept and as compounds that could be produced by this now-claimed process

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel G. Ackerman Reg. No. 24,307

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LILL Two Embarcadero Center, 8th Floor

San Francisco, California 94111-3834

Tel: 415-576-0200 Fax: 415-576-0300 Attachments JA:ja 60026297 v1